



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05997.0013-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Steven W. ABRAHAMS et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3624  
Application No.: 09/602,254 ) Examiner: Subramanian, N.  
Filed: June 23, 2000 ) Confirmation No.: 9350  
For: GUARANTEE CERTIFICATES )

#3/a  
2/4/03

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action dated October 29, 2002, the period of response to which extends through January 29, 2003, without extensions, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 13, and 14, amend claims 8, 11, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 28, 30-32, and 34, and add new claim 36, as follows:

8. (Amended) A method for issuing a guarantee certificate, which is a financial instrument representing an obligation of a first party to make a payment triggered by certain events associated with the payment obligation to a second party, the method comprising the steps of:

pooling, into a reference pool, instruments representing payment obligations;

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